

Message Text

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FOR IOP, IPS, IBS, ILA, STATE FOR ARA/CEN

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UNALCS. JANUARY 20. PRENSA GRAFICA'S JANUARY 20 ARTICLE
WRITTEN BY JOSE EMILIO RUGAMAS AND TITLED: "U.S. CONGRESSMAN
DRINAN'S ATTITUDE CRITICIZED." COMPLETE TEXT FOLLOWS:

SINCE JESUIT DRINAN CATEGORICALLY STATED THAT US AID TO
EL SALVADOR WOULD BE CUT IF COUNTRY DID NOT ADHERE TO THE
POLITICAL LINE DICTATED BY THE VISITING PRIEST, SALVADORANS
ARE WONDERING WHETHER THE MAN REPRESENTED PRESIDENT CARTER
OR THE US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY.

"IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE OTHERWISE IN VIEW OF THE
ARROGANCE OF THIS THREAT. SUCH A DECISION COULD NOT BE TAKEN
BY A SIMPLE MEMBER OF A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION, IN SPITE OF
HIS HIGH POST WITHIN THE US CONGRESS. IT SEEMS THAT FATHER
DRINAN IS ONLY A MARXIST AGENT PASSING MALICIOUS AND ARBITRARY
JUDGMENTS WITH THE PURPOSE OF CAUSING DIFFICULTIES FOR A SMALL
COUNTRY WHICH IS TRYING, WITHIN A PEACEFUL CLIMATE, TO OVER-
COME BARRIERS THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF PROGRESS.

"WE SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THIS AMERICAN PRIEST
BELONGS TO A RELIGIOUS SECT--THE JESUITS, TO BE SURE--
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AND WHICH THROUGH ITS INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS ARE ENGAGED IN
CREATING A DISTORTED IMAGE OF SALVADORAN LIFE. AND SO THIS JESUIT
HAS ONLY REPEATED THE SAME SONG OF "THE PERSECUTED CHURCH,"
THAT LABORERS AND CAMPESINOS SUFFER, ACCORDING TO HIS CRITERIA,
THE WORST SOCIAL INJUSTICE. AS ONE CAN SEE, THIS IS
DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THE NATIONAL REALITY: ALL RELIGIOUS
FAITHS ARE FREE TO CELEBRATE SERVICES; AGRICULTURAL

ACTIVITIES PROCEED NORMALLY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. IN SPITE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, FACTORY WORKERS ARE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE WITHIN LABOR UNIONS, AND THERE IS UNRESTRICTED FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

"FATHER DRINAN SEEMS TO LAMENT MEASURES TAKEN TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL SUBVERSION WHEREBY LOCAL AGENTS ARE IN THE MIDST OF SOWING THE SEEDS OF UNEASINESS TO REACH THEIR IGNOBLE ENDS. HERE (IN EL SALVADOR) AS WELL AS IN OTHER DEMOCRACIES, TERRORISTS AND POLITICAL KIDNAPPERS ARE PERSECUTED. THERE IS, IN FACT, A LEGAL MECHANISM FOR THIS PURPOSE, OTHERWISE THE SALVADORAN SOCIETY WOULD FALL INTO THE ABYSS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHAOS.

"IN TRUTH, FATHER DRINAN DOES HAVE A ONE-SIDED VIEW OF THE SALVADORAN SITUATION. ONE SEES THAT HE IS BIASED AND THAT HE USES HIS POLITICAL POSITION IN THE US TO COME WITH THREATS WHICH SHOULDN'T CONCERN US EVEN IF ONE WERE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS JESUIT REPRESENTED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. HIS ATTITUDE, AS OUR GRANDPARENTS USED TO SAY, IS LIKE THAT OF A 'SCARECROW' WHICH TRIES TO FRIGHTEN US.

"BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE (SALVADORAN) GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES SHOULD RESPOND TO THIS NOISY PROPAGANDA ABROAD WITH IRREFUTABLE DOCUMENTS IN WHICH THE TRUE IMAGE OF EL SALVADOR IS SHOWN, THAT WHICH REFLECTS HARDWORKING PEOPLE TRYING TO OVERCOME
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ITS DEFICIENCIES, GOVERNED BY A TRULY DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

"HOWEVER, AS AN IMMEDIATE PROPHYLATIC MEASURE, THE LAW SHOULD BE APPLIED TO FOREIGN JESUITS, AND EXPELL THEM FROM THE COUNTRY."

DAMBRAVA

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